to why the financial assistance should not be recalled. If no communication is received within a month from the Channelising Agency, the NHFDC would have the liberty to take necessary action including invocation of guarantee in part of full and we presume that the Channelising Agency has not reasons to submit.

Rights of disabled persons

837. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission has called for a comprehensive and integral convention to protect and promote rights of the people with disabilities;

(b) if so, the concrete efforts made by Government in this regard;

(c) the schemes prepared for the disabled in the country; and

(d) to what extent these schemes are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The persons with Disabilities Act (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has already been enacted which provides for the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and also delineates affirmative action to promote their educational and economic empowerment. National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, has also been enacted in 1999. Besides, in the second meeting of the *Ad-hoc* Committee, appointed by the UN General Assembly to consider this matter, the Government of India has supported the proposal to have an International Convention on the protection and promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

(c) and (d) There are various ongoing schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the welfare of the persons with disabilities. There are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, *inter-alia,* towards manpower development through long and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry, manufactures and promotes the availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms, for self-employment and income generating activities. There is a scheme to provide support to non-government organization running various projects for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The Government has also taken initiatives to ensure wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over a hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centres with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services, and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at the State/District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has become functional. During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 224.37 crores has been released under various schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of persons with disabilities.